



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LADONNA HARRIS APPOINTED ALAMEDA COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has announced its unanimous appointment of LaDonna Harris as Chief Probation Officer effective December 3, 2012. Ms. Harris was a longtime employee of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office who came out of retirement to assume the post of Acting Alameda County Probation Chief in March.

Ms. Harris worked for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office for 29 years and retired in 2011 as a Division Commander. She was appointed Acting Probation Chief following the departure of David Muhammad as Chief Probation Officer.

Nate Miley, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, complimented Ms. Harris' work with the Probation Department, saying, "LaDonna has proven herself to be a very effective leader during her short time as head of the Probation Department, helping the department move forward in the face of many challenges including budget constraints and the State's realignment program that shifts many public safety functions from the State to local government. I am proud of her professionalism and its apparent morale boost to the department."

As head of Alameda County's Probation Department, Harris is responsible for oversight of 18,000 probationers and 600 staff members. The department provides a vast array of programs and services, involving partnerships with other County agencies as well as community organizations, all with the aim of ensuring public safety and successfully returning probationers to the community. A longtime resident of the East Bay, Ms. Harris holds a Master of Arts Degree in Leadership from St. Mary's College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration from University of San Francisco.

In a memo to her staff, Harris said: "I am very proud to be an active part of this department. I commit to you that I will do everything I can to ensure that you have all of the resources you need to continue to have a positive impact on the community we serve. I will continue to hold you to a high standard because the community is counting on us to deliver and because you have already demonstrated your ability to produce extraordinary results."

Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator, said Harris' broad experience in public safety, including a stint she worked under Alameda County's Acting Chief Probation Officer Wayne Tucker during a prior period of transition, was a key reason the County looked to her for leadership earlier this year. "We are pleased that she is committed to advancing the department's strategic vision and providing leadership continuity during this challenging time," Muranishi said.